

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KABUL 04803 131340Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 SSO-00  
NSCE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05  
L-03 CA-01 /073 W  
-----040627 131348Z /43

O 131255Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8556  
INFO AMEMBASSY GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KABUL 4803

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, AF, UK, UN, US  
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE METHOD TO LIBERATE AFGHAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.

REF: A) SECSTATE 146488; B) LONDON 8986;  
C) SECSTATE 143749; D) KABUL 4712; E) TEHRAN 5600

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER  
AND FOREIGN MINISTER AMIN ON JUNE 12, I TOLD HIM THAT  
I HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HIS DISCUSSION  
WITH ASST. SECRETARY SAUNDERS IN NEW YORK ABOUT THE  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN BEING HELD IN PROTECTIVE CUSTODY.  
I TOLD HIM THAT, AS A RESULT OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S  
WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THESE PERSONS TO BE RELEASED IF SOMEBODY  
WOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM, U.S. GOVERNMENT  
WAS NOW EXPLORING HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE.  
ONE POSSIBILITY WAS VIA SOME INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATION. I ANTICIPATED THE EMBASSY WOULD SHORTLY  
BE RECEIVING INFORMATION OR INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS AND  
WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM. IT WAS POSSIBLE, TOO,  
I SAID, THAT OTHER CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE  
CONTACTING HIM ALSO. MR. AMIN NODDED HIS HEAD,  
SECRET

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SAYING HE UNDERSTOOD. HE ADDED THAT THE DRA COULD  
ONLY RELEASE THESE PEOPLE TO LIVE OUTSIDE AFGHANISTAN.  
I THINK OUR EXCHANGE CLEARLY INDICATES THAT THE DRA  
IS OPEN TO AN INITIATIVE BY EITHER A FOREIGN GOVERN-  
MENT OR AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION TO RESOLVE THIS  
DETAINEE PROBLEM.

2. I HOPE WE, IN COORDINATION IF NECESSARY WITH THE BRITISH, CAN NOW MOVE PROMPTLY TO APPROACH THE ICRC AND/OR UNHCR AS RECOMMENDED IN REF D. WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE DETAINEES HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM TAKING FOOD TO THE PRISON, A PRACTICE WHICH HAD EARLIER BEEN ALLOWED. ALSO, THERE ARE REPORTS OF ILLNESS AMONG THE DETAINEES. IN SHORT, TIME'S A'WASTING.

3. FOR TEHRAN: REF PARA 2, TEHRAN 5600, WHAT I HAVE RECOMMENDED IS THAT WE GET THE ICRC OR UNHCR TO SEND SOMEONE TO KABUL TO WORK ON HOW MANY OF THE DETAINEES MIGHT BE MOVED WHERE. I HAVE AVOIDED TELLING ANY OF THE AFFECTED AFGHAN FAMILIES ABOUT THIS SCHEME BECAUSE I DO NOT WISH TO RAISE HOPES WHICH MIGHT LATER BE DASHED. I SUGGEST YOU TELL MALIKYAR THAT WE ARE WORKING ON THE SITUATION, BUT THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHETHER WE WILL IN THE END BE ABLE TO HELP. PLEASE GIVE MY REGARDS, THANK HIM FOR HIS MESSAGE, AND TELL HIM HE AND HIS FAMILY ARE CONSTANTLY IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS.  
ELIOT

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 13 jun 1978  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D780246-0989  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 jun 2005  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
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**Subject:** POSSIBLE METHOD TO LIBERATE AFGHAN POLITICAL PRISONERS.  
**TAGS:** SHUM, AF, UK, US, UN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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